

Abstract of the Disclosure

Disclosed is a lead removal apparatus for removing an implanted pacemaker or defibrillator lead from the heart. The lead removal apparatus includes a proximal handle that further includes a proximal portion, such as  
5 an elongate section of intertwined wire, having a compact, pre-formed first configuration, such as one or more coiled loops. The compact shape permits the operator to utilize the proximal portion without requiring the assistance of a second person to help keep it within the sterile field during a procedure. The operator is thus able to constrain or uncoil the proximal portion into a  
10 second configuration that is sufficiently straight such that a medical device, such as a dilator sheath, can be advanced thereover to help separate the lead from scar tissue along the vein path. The proximal portion may include sufficient resiliency to substantially return to the first configuration once the sheath has been advanced.